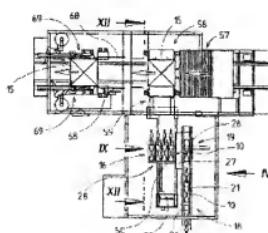


Packing process for producing multipacks from a number of articles such as stacked cups by introduction into cartons or other large containers

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The process involves individually feeding article packs (10,11) at a spacing from one another with their longitudinal extent oriented in the conveying direction, displaying a number or articles one after the other in the transverse direction to form a layer (17) having articles positioned one beside the other; moving the layers in an upward direction to form a group and pushing the completed group into an open top tray (18) to form a trayed article; and then separating the trayed article from a stack of soft packs of articles. Packs (10) which arrive individually at a spacing from one another on the fast conveyor (16) are transversely pushed off from the conveyor by a pack pusher (36), into a collecting station (19). Layers (17) comprising a number of packs located one beside the other are formed in the collecting station. The layers are then raised one after the other and introduced into a grouping subassembly in order to form groups (16) comprising a number of layers. In each case one group, in turn is pushed into a carton which is open on at least one side, by means of a pusher (50) having bores (51) through which suction is applied to hold the articles against the pusher. The layers are raised by a platform (24) operated by a rotating eccentric plate (36), pivotable article members (29,30) serving to



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